

John McCain, Lamar Alexander, Norm Coleman, Judd Gregg, John E. Sununu, Pat Roberts, Craig Thomas.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, May 11, immediately after the time for the two leaders, the Senate begin consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4297, the Tax Relief Extension Reconciliation Act; provided further that 8 hours remain out of the statutory time limit and that it be equally divided. I further ask consent that following the vote on the adoption of the conference report, and notwithstanding rule XXII, there be 60 minutes of debate, equally divided, between the chairman and ranking member of the HELP Committee or their designees prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the modified substitute to S. 1955, the small business health plans bill, with no intervening action or debate, and the live quorum waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, may I inquire of the majority leader, at this point, are we closing down debate on this bill?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, through the Chair, on the small business reform bill, we will have 1 hour prior to the cloture vote. And during the day tomorrow, I expect people will be coming to the floor talking, as well, on small business health plans.

Mr. DURBIN. If I may ask through the Chair to the majority leader, as I understand the procedural position we are in, earlier today the majority leader filled the tree, as we say, to preclude any further amendments. And now, as I understand it, the majority leader has filed a cloture motion, which basically means we are going to bring this to a close without further amendments, without further debate, one up-or-down vote on cloture?

Mr. FRIST. That is correct. Someone could offer an amendment tomorrow prior to the cloture vote, if they so desire.

Mr. DURBIN. If I might ask the majority leader through the Chair, I asked earlier today if we would be allowed to bring up the stem cell research issue, which the majority leader has expressed his support of, and whether we could bring that up for a vote this week while we are on Health Care Week so we could address this issue of medical research.

I would like to ask the majority leader through the Chair if we could bring it up before cloture or after cloture?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, through the Chair, the interest in stem cells will be debated in the future, at a time that is mutually set by the Democratic leadership working with the Repub-

lican leadership. Stem cells can be discussed but will not be voted upon before this cloture motion.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### FINAL PASSAGE OF H.R. 4939

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wanted to take this opportunity to discuss why I made the difficult decision to vote against H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery.

The United States is involved in operations overseas while dealing with natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. On May 4, 2006, I voted against a \$109 billion spending bill that was \$17 billion more than what the President originally requested. Of course, on occasion, times call for emergency spending, but this bill goes far beyond what anyone would call emergency spending.

Many items in this bill do not constitute "emergency" spending. The bill would funnel millions of dollars to a road in Hawaii, millions of dollars in grants for research not related to emergencies, and still millions more to subsidize the volunteer work program AmeriCorps. Are these projects necessary? Possibly, but they are not an "emergency." These spending proposals should go through the annual authorization and appropriations process. Congress must tighten the definition of what qualifies as an emergency. The use of supplemental spending bills must be saved for the true emergencies. True emergency funding is being bogged down with nonessential projects that have no business being in an emergency supplemental spending bill.

We must not saddle our children, their children, and their children's children with debt that we incurred because we did not properly restrain our spending. My very first speech in the Senate Chamber was on the need for a balanced budget. In 1997, I said that the Federal Government must learn to live within its means. Without any restraint on spending, we are simply adding onto our Nation's enormous debt. Unfortunately, this is still true today.

I recently visited American troops stationed in Kuwait. I always have and will continue to support our troops. I appreciate the sacrifices they make and the sacrifices of the families, friends, businesses and communities they leave behind.

Our American service men and women should have the financial resources they need to fight this crucial war on terror. This bill should be about voting to provide financial stability that allows the U.S. Government to support our troops and our veterans into the future. It is unfortunate that other nonemergency spending projects made their way into an important bill that included vital funding for our troops. I wish that the Senate would have followed the President's proposal and only included funding for real emergencies.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL STEPHEN R. BIXLER

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to LCpl Stephen R. Bixler of Suffield, CT.

Corporal Bixler, a member of the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC, was killed in action on May 4 while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Anbar Province, Iraq. He was struck while on foot patrol by an improvised explosive device on his second tour of duty in Iraq. Corporal Bixler is fondly remembered as a quiet but strong leader with strength of character and self-assurance unusual for someone of his age. As an Eagle Scout and former senior patrol leader in his Boy Scout troop, Corporal Bixler enjoyed helping others. He joined the Marines shortly after graduating from Suffield High School in 2003 and served in Haiti prior to his tour in Iraq. He was well received and respected when he proudly visited his high school, where he had been admired as he excelled at academics and athletics, to talk to students about his experiences. He was a true patriot and defender of our great Nation's principles of freedom of justice. Corporal Bixler served as an example of the potent American spirit, which permeates this Nation's history.

I am both proud and grateful that we have the kind of defender exemplified by Corporal Bixler serving in the Persian Gulf. Our Nation extends its heartfelt condolences to his family. To his father, Richard, his mother, Linda, and sister, Sandra, we extend our profound gratitude for sharing this outstanding Marine with us, and we offer our prayers and support.

STAFF SERGEANT MARK WALL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of a truly brave American who has passed away while defending our country. SSG Mark Wall died April 27, 2006, in Mosul, Iraq, where he was serving his country as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Staff Sergeant Wall was assigned to C Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry regiment in Fort Wainwright, AK. He was deployed to Iraq in August of 2005 and served near Mosul. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his parents, Arthur and Helen Wall, his two brothers and his sister.